offers the world—peace, justice, love, and true individual freedom.

Many times he made a point of explaining that the foundation of the diplomatic mission of the Holy See is rooted squarely in the pursuits of freedom, tolerance and the protection of human dignity. The "soft power" of moral rectitude and persuasion is what drove the Archbishop in his work.

His death last Friday following a serious lung operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital is a time for reflection on the twenty-seven years of official recognition between the U.S. government and the Holy See in Vatican City. In that short period, the bilateral relationship has flourished into a deep commitment. Together, the world's most influential state and the world's smallest sovereign state combine to address serious problems like human trafficking, extremist violence and religious intolerance.

As I mourn the loss of my friend, laid to rest in his hometown of Sogliano al Rubicone, Italy, I am thankful for his witness and example, and also have to pause and reflect on the moral leadership of the United States around the world, which Archbishop Sambi so deeply appreciated and valued.

POPE FRANCIS' FIRST VISIT TO U.S. PROVIDES HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

Pope Francis' highly anticipated visit to the United States offers an opportunity to advance our understanding of the significant role that the pope and the Holy See play in world affairs. And just as important, the Papal Visit will afford Pope Francis a glimpse at the fundamental values at work in the United States—providing a unique occasion to inform his views on crucial economic, human rights, and environmental issues. Pope Francis has never visited the United States, so there is a historic opportunity to demonstrate how American values can help resolve many vexing global problems

The pope will break new ground in addressing the Joint Session of Congress. By responding to Speaker Boehner's historic invitation, Pope Francis will engage with the Congress as no pope has previously, reinforcing his role as a global leader and drawing unprecedented public attention to his major diplomatic themes and objectives.

Thus far in his papacy Pope Francis has laid out several important priorities which might surface in his address and broader visit to the United States.

From the beginning, the pope has made a priority to highlight the global challenge of migration and the ensuing deprivation of basic human needs of people displaced from their homes. The lesson of his first papal trip, to Lampedusa, resonates today with the increase in refugees from Syria and Africa. He urged the world to "oppose the globalization of indifference" to the plight of these people.

Recently, in his encyclical Laudate Si, Pope Francis used forceful language to call attention to environmental degradation and, somewhat controversially, linked consumption and waste in industrialized countries with poverty and lack of opportunity in the emerging world.

One success of this visit could be that the pope sees in the United States a people who also care for their environment yet offer practical solutions to reduce pollution like nurturing the use of cleaner fuels, deploying advanced technologies and supporting alternative energy sources throughout the world.

Another aspect of Pope Francis' diplomatic outreach has been criticism of capitalism as abusive and insensitive to the poor and the disadvantaged. In many respects what the pope has expressed is consistent with historic Catholic social teaching, descending

from Rerum Novarum and Pope Leo XIII, but he has brought a different tone and diction to the discussion of political economy.

This may be the greatest result of the papal visit—if Pope Francis experiences something different in the United States, distinct from his experience in Latin America. In Argentina, broad-based corruption and crony capitalism dominate; oligarchic businesses feed off of the state and provide little to their workers. Many parts of Latin America, the pope's basis of perspective, have significant inequality of wealth, abusive governments and abridged freedoms. The opportunity to rise up and achieve one's God-given talents is circumscribed.

Our challenge during his short time in the United States is to draw his attention to the fundamental American values of economic and personal liberty. This unique combination of religious and personal freedom, as Alexis de Tocqueville foresaw in the early 19th century, created an engine for prosperity of its citizens unlike any previous governmental experiment.

The itinerary of Pope Francis' visit to the United States represents the quintessential new world experience; Washington DC, the epicenter of political power in the United States and derivatively in the world. Next he will travel to New York, the locus of financial power and influence in the world, and the home of the United Nations, the ultimate gathering place of all nations. Finally, Pope Francis will stop in Philadelphia, where American democracy began. Hopefully Pope Francis will depart the United States with a heartfelt understanding of the good that can result when political and economic institutions foster individual liberty and freedom.

Likewise, if the attention the pope draws from the citizens of the United States serves to increase their understanding of where he comes from and what he seeks to accomplish, another important goal will have been achieved—enhanced appreciation for the important and constructive role the papacy and the Holy See play in the world today, in the diplomatic engagement among states as well as in Catholic theology.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF GARY L. JANACEK

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Gary L. Janacek, CEO of Scott & White Employees Credit Union. This esteemed and valued citizen of the Temple, Texas area has made real and lasting impacts on his community and set a high standard of excellence in his profession.

Gary truly embodied the Credit Union's slogan, "people helping people," throughout his career and in all aspects of life. Throughout his nearly fifty years of service, Gary's work has been vital in helping the Credit Union succeed in serving their communities and achieving their goals.

When formally announcing his retirement to the board of directors and staff last summer, Gary said, "It's been a distinct privilege and honor to serve our members for the past 39 years. I have been richly blessed with a visionary board of directors and dedicated staff in serving the needs of our membership." That Gary chose to salute those around him rather

than himself comes as no surprise to those who've been able to work alongside this exceptional leader.

Gary's work hasn't gone unnoticed. He served in numerous leadership positions within the state and national credit union movement. In September of 2003, Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Gary to serve on the Texas Credit Union Commission. He was soon chosen to Chair this commission's important work. In 2015, Gary was inducted into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders. His work positively impacted countless people across Texas and nationwide.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute Gary Janacek's work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LATE MR. PERCY STROTHERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community servant and entrepreneur, the late Mr. Percy Strothers, who has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve his community.

Mr. Percy Strothers was born on June 7, 1925 in Natchez, MS to the late Emanuel Strothers and Charity Piggs.

In 1943, after finishing high school Percy joined the Army at the age of 17, where he served for 3 years. As a World War II Veteran, his tenure included the United States of America, England, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He received the ATO-Medal, EAMETO-Medal, GOOD CONDUCT Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

He married the former Carolyn Sue Webster on October 30, 1966 and to this union two wonderful children were born. Percy remained a faithful husband to Carolyn for 50 years.

After returning from the Army, Mr. Strothers opened the first black owned Taxi Cab business in Vicksburg MS, which he operated for 27 years. He also worked for Shell Oil Co. for 11 years. Percy later worked for the United States Postal Service as a Letter Carrier for 27 years and Mail Supervisor for 1 year before retiring in 1990.

Mr. Strothers served his community well. He enjoyed serving his community as a Local Historian and Legendary community activist. Percy was affiliated with the National Association of Letter Carriers, NAACP (National Association of Advancement of Colored People), American Legion Tyner-Ford Post 213 and the Esquire Club of Vicksburg. He served as past President of Vicksburg Letter Carriers Union Branch 94, past Chairman for the State of MS Letter Carriers Sons and Daughters Scholarship Committee. Percy received a Proclamation from Mayor Robert Walker designating November 30th as Percy Strothers Day. Percy was instrumental in the development of the 1st Black Subdivision (Melinda Robinson Subdivision) where he served as chairperson of the

development. In honor of his hard work and dedication the street in the neighborhood bares his name.

Percy joined Jackson Street Missionary Baptist Church in 1956 where he remained a faithful and dedicated member of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Percy Strothers for his dedication and loyalty to Vicksburg, Mississippi and his desire to always strive for more.

RECOGNIZING TED OGLESBY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of longtime Gainesville journalist Ted Oglesby, who served his country and our hometown throughout most of his 84 years.

Mr. Oglesby arrived in Gainesville, GA in 1958 out of the Air Force Reserves and began working for WDUN radio, a well-known station in northeast Georgia. He soon left to become sole owner and chief editor at the Gainesville Tribune.

In 1968, he returned to military service and spent a year in Vietnam. During this time, Ted contributed to many missions that led him across the globe. He retired in 1981 as a Colonel in the Air Force, having received a Bronze Star for his meritorious service to our nation.

After returning to civilian life in Gainesville, Mr. Oglesby again took up the pen and pad as a reporter. His work in politics earned him many Georgia Press Awards, and he retired as the Editorial Editor of the Gainesville Times

As the founder and longest serving chairman of the Small Business Development Center, Mr. Oglesby was well respected throughout his community. He hosted a Travel Club for the Georgia Retired Teachers association and served as a Life Deacon at Lakewood Baptist Church. He was honored by the Gainesville Kiwanis and was presented the Hixson Award for his outstanding community service, which spanned five decades.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ted Oglesby, a man whose ambition was to be a "servant to others." This remarkable man loved his country and his community and served them both diligently.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{HONORING COLONEL HUGH} \\ \text{HANLON} \end{array}$

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Hugh Hanlon, who is retiring after 30 years of service to our county in the United States Air Force.

Colonel Hanlon graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1987, and earned a Masters of Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University in 1998. He served for 30 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, where he

served as the Chief of CENTCOM strategy for the Air Force Checkmate Division and, among other assignments, as the Chief of Long Range Strategy during the Afghanistan War. During his 30 year career, Colonel Hanlon also served as an instructor pilot, flight examiner, operations officer, squadron commander, and Vice Wing Commander. During those years, he served in Hawaii, Japan, and Korea, prior to his current position as the Commander of Corps of Cadets Detachment 805 at Texas A&M University.

Over his three decade military career, Colonel Hanlon was awarded 12 awards and badges, including the National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, and Joint Meritorious Unit Award, He further distinguished his service by earning the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, a Medal given to those who display acts of heroism or meritorious service. In addition. Colonel Hanlon earned the Legion of Merit Award, given to those who display exceptionally meritorious conduct, and the Defense Superior Service Medal, awarded to those in the Department of Defense who display superior meritorious service in positions of significant responsibility.

Colonel Hanlon has demonstrated his gifted skills as a pilot through over 3,500 flight hours, with 325 of those hours being in combat. He reached the rank of Command Pilot, and flew four different military aircraft during his service, including the T–37, T–38, A–10 and F–16.

I also would like to honor Colonel Hanlon for his service to the Texas A&M University. For nearly four years, he has served as the Commander of Detachment 805 of the Corps of Cadets, as well as teaching at the University as a Professor of Aerospace Studies. He has embodied the core values at Texas A&M, especially the core values of excellence and self-less-service.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's history is grounded in the efforts of our men and women who have served in uniform. Those who protected and defended the United States of America deserve our highest praise and thanks. We also wish them Godspeed as they transition to the next chapter in their lives.

Today, I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the United States Capitol to honor the many contributions of Colonel Hugh Hanlon. As I close, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING RILEY RICE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Riley Rice.

Mr. Rice has extensive experience in the field of education and municipal government.

Mr. Rice was born on August 8, 1943, the fifth child of the late Robert Rice, a World War I Veteran and sharecropper, and Katie Rice, a housewife

Mr. Rice is a resident of Indianola, Mississippi, and was educated in the former

Indianola Public School District. He is a 1963 graduate of Gentry High School; 1967 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science Education; 1992 graduate of Delta State University with a Master's in High School Counseling; and further studies in Political Science at Mississippi State University.

Along with Mr. Rice's background in education, he worked 35 years in the Sunflower County School District. He served 16 years on the Indianola Board of Aldermen and 8 years as Vice-Mayor.

Mr. Rice participated in the Civil Rights Movement in 1965. He was jailed for attending the former Seymour Library and for a sit-in at the Traveler's Inn Restaurant. He participated in many marches throughout Sunflower County and he marched with Fannie Lou Hamer and Charles Scattergood.

Presently, Mr. Rice serves as Supervisor of Sunflower County, District 2; is a member of the P16 Council; a member of the Cares Mentoring Program, and Vice President of the Sunflower County Branch 5333 of the NAACP.

Lastly, Mr. Rice is a devoted Christian and an ordained Deacon at Traveler's Rest M.B. Church, where he serves as Chairman of the Deacon Board and Superintendent of the Sunday School. The Pastor of Traveler's Rest M.B. Church is Rev. T.L. Martin, Jr. of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Riley Rice for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

HONORING CLAY PHILLIPS'S LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of City Manager Clay Phillips of Coppell, Texas. On March 31, 2017, Mr. Phillips will retire from public service after serving eight years as City Manager of Coppell and over 35 years of service in municipal government.

Clay Phillips began his public service career with the Town of Addison in 1981 working as a firefighter and paramedic. He left the Town of Addison after obtaining the rank of Deputy Fire Chief to assume the position of Fire Chief for the City of Coppell. Since 1991, Clay has served as the Fire Chief, Assistant City Manager, and Deputy City Manager and in 2008, Clay was promoted to the role of City Manager.

Clay attended the University of North Texas where he received his Bachelor of Science with Honors in Emergency Administration and Planning along with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. In 2011, Clay was named the 2011 MPA Alumnus of the Year. Clay has served as president of the North Central Texas City Managers' Association and he serves on the Board of Directors of the North Texas Commission.

During his career as City Manager in Coppell, Clay has promoted regionalism amongst area cities and helped bring about a number of cooperative efforts, including the North Texas Emergency Communications